# Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

| SUBJECT FOCUS: | RE: Christianity | YEAR 5 | TERM 2 |
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**Key Knowledge**

Area of focus: Believing

Key question: Is the Christmas story true?

In the Bible there are records of events which had been written down although these probably did not happen at the time of them being written – they would have been told and retold before being recorded in writing.
This can mean some parts of the Bible have been written from different viewpoints with slightly different events.

What are the main differences in versions of the story of Jesus' birth?

- There are different types of truth e.g. historical, scientific, personal. There are different accounts of the Christmas story in the Bible according to different people.
- In Luke's Gospel and Matthew's Gospel the accounts of Jesus' birth are slightly different.
- Luke's account says Joseph and Mary had to go to leave Nazareth for Bethlehem to complete the census.
- Matthew's account says Three Wise Men spotted the bright star which meant a king had been born, they travelled with gifts to give to the new king. Matthew describes how they visited King Herod to ask if he knew about Jesus and then felt threatened by the birth of Jesus. He then ordered all baby boys in Bethlehem to be killed/.
- Some people think December is not the month in which Jesus was born for different reasons. They suggest as the sheep were in the fields, the weather would have been warmer and perhaps it took place in spring.
- The main points of the story are agreed on by the writers despite there being different parts emphasised in their versions.

**Key vocabulary**

- **Advent** – The period beginning on the 4th Sunday before Christmas. Literal translation is "coming" so this is a time of preparation.
- **Incarnation** – The Christian belief that God took human form in Jesus Christ.
- **Gospel** – the record of Christ's life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament.





**Incarnation**

- Christians believe in the Trinity. This is the link between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit.
- Christians believe that God chose a young Jewish woman called Mary, who was to be married to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his son on Earth. He sent the angel, Gabriel, to ask Mary for this. Christians believe that as Mary accepted this, she gave birth to Jesus who was born in Bethlehem.
- This is the idea of "incarnation" with God becoming man.



**Learning outcomes**

I can start to explain how 'true' could mean different things to different people, and how stories can be 'true' in different ways.
I can start to explain the Christian belief that Jesus was the Incarnation of God.
I can start to express an opinion on whether the Christmas story is true and what this might mean to Christians.

**Possible experiences:**

- Christian visitor to discuss what Christmas means to them.
- Possible links with local churches and visits to compare meaning of Christmas for different people.
- Link to learning of symbols in Year 4 and how these can be interpreted for different meanings linked to the Christmas story.

**Importance of the Christmas stories for Christians**

<u>What does Jesus' birth mean to Christians?</u>

Christians believe Jesus is the incarnation of God on Earth. God gave Jesus to the Earth to show people how to lead good lives, forgive them for the things they do wrong and to prove to them (through his resurrection) that there is life after death.

<u>Does the sacred text have to be "true" to help a believer understand their religion?</u>

The Christmas story is a basis for belief for millions of Christians across the world and has been widely believed by the Christian Church for a long time. Having four biblical accounts of Jesus' life, including two of his birth, is seen as being incredibly enriching to a Christian's understanding of what happened and what it means.

Christians acknowledge there are different versions of this story with certain elements described in different ways. The definition of "true" depends on the writer and the understanding of the person who is reading it.

Some aspects of the story have been displayed by Christians through symbols and decorations during Advent and Christmas – these symbols are interpreted in different ways.

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